

CLAIMS

1. A method of making content data (19) available to a user, the method including storing the content data on a storage terminal (7); transmitting schedule data (15) to the storage terminal (7) via a mobile telecommunications network (17); receiving the schedule data (15) at the storage terminal (7); and controlling the transmission of selected content data (19) to a user terminal (3,5) in accordance with instructions derived from the schedule data (15) so that the selected content data is made available for use by the user terminal (3,5).
2. The method of claim 1, wherein at least some of the content data (19) is stored on the storage terminal (7) by transmitting the content data (19) over the mobile telecommunications network (17).
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the content data (19) is transmitted to the storage module (7) at a time selected to coincide with a time when network use (17) is or is expected to be relatively low.
4. The method of claim 1,2 or 3, wherein at least some of the content data is stored on the storage terminal (7) prior to distribution of the storage terminal (7) to the user.
5. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein at least some of the content data (19) is stored on the storage (7) terminal by transmitting the content data via the Internet.
6. A method of controlling access to content data stored on a storage terminal (7), including transmitting schedule data (15) to the storage terminal (7) via a mobile telecommunications network (17); receiving the schedule data (15) at the storage terminal (7); and controlling the transmission of selected content data (19) to a user terminal (3,5)

in accordance with instructions derived from the schedule data (15) so that the selected content data (19) is made available for use by the user terminal (3,5).

7. A method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the storage terminal (7) and the user terminal (3,5) comprise a single device.

8. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the schedule data (15) controls the time of transmission of the content data to the user terminal (3,5).

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the time of transmission is controlled such that the content data (19) is made available to the user terminal (3,5) substantially simultaneously with the transmission of that content data (19) to the storage terminal (7) by the mobile telecommunications network (17).

10. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the user of the user terminal (3,5) can select content data (19) to be transmitted to the storage terminal (7) and for the subsequent transmission to the user terminal (3,5).

11. The method of any one of the preceding claims wherein the user of the user terminal (3,5) can adjust the time of transmission of content data from the storage terminal (7) to the user terminal (3,5).

12. The method of any one of the preceding claims, including determining the location of the user terminal (3,5) and transmitting special schedule data (15) and/or content data (19) in dependence upon the determined location.

13. The method of any one of the preceding claims, including enabling the user to respond to the content data (19) via the mobile telecommunications network (17).

14. The method of any one of the preceding claims, including enabling the user to perform a transaction associated with the content data (19).

15. A method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the content data (19) is stored on the storage terminal (7) is encrypted.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the schedule data (15) includes decryption data for use in decrypting the encrypted content data (19).

17. A mobile telecommunications network including means operable to generate schedule data (15) for transmission over the mobile telecommunications network to a storage terminal (7) on which content data is stored, the schedule data (15) controlling the transmission of selected content data (19) to a user terminal (3,5) in accordance with instructions derived from the schedule data (15) so that selected content data (19) is made available for use by the user terminal (3,5).

18. The network of claim 17, including means operable to transmit the content data (19) to the storage terminal (7).

19. The network of claim 18, including means for receiving a request for particular content data from a user, and means for transmitting that content data (19) to the storage terminal (7) for subsequent transmission to the user terminal (3,5).

20. The network of claims 17,18 or 19, including means for providing an indication of the location of the storage terminal (7) within the network, and means for altering the schedule data (15) for transmission to the storage module in dependence upon that location indication.

21. The network of any one of claims 17. to 20, including means for receiving

instructions derived from the user terminal in response to the content data (19).

22. The network of any one of claims 17 to 21, including means for enabling a transaction associated with the content data (19) to be performed.

23. The network of any one of claims 17 to 22, wherein the network is a GSM or UMTS mobile telecommunications network.

24. A storage terminal (7) for storing content data, the storage terminal (7) including means for receiving schedule data (15) via a mobile telecommunications network (17); and means (13) for controlling the transmission of selected content data to a user terminal (3,5) in accordance with instructions derived from the schedule data (15) so that the selected content data (19) is made available for use by the user terminal (3,5).

25. The storage terminal of claim 24, wherein the receiving means (9) comprises an interface for receiving the schedule data (15) from a mobile terminal, which mobile terminal is operable to receive schedule data (15) from the mobile telecommunications network (17).

26. The storage terminal of claim 24, wherein the receiving means (9) comprises a transceiver connectable to the mobile telecommunications network (17) for receiving schedule data from the mobile telecommunications network (17).

27. The storage terminal of claim 24, 25 or 26, including means for receiving content data (19) to be stored over the mobile telecommunications network (17).

28. The storage terminal of any one of claims 24 to 27, including means for receiving content data (19) to be stored by means of the Internet.

29. The storage terminal of any one of claims 24 to 28, including means for transmitting (11) content data (19) to the user terminal (3,5) substantially simultaneously with transmission of that content data (19) to the storage terminal (7) by the mobile telecommunications network (17).

30. The storage terminal of any one of claims 24 to 29, including means for receiving (13) instructions from the user terminal (3,5) which are indicative of a selection of content data required, and means for transmitting a signal indicative of this selection to a content data provider.

31. The storage terminal of any one of claims 24 to 30, including means for adjusting the transmission time of content data (19) from the storage terminal (7) to the user terminal (3,5).

32. The storage terminal of any one of claims 24 to 31, including means for determining the location of the storage terminal (7) and for varying the content data (19) transmitted to the user terminal in dependence upon that location determination.

33. The storage terminal of any one of claims 24 to 32, including means for transmitting a response to the content data (19) from the user terminal via the mobile telecommunications network (17).

34. The storage terminal of any one of claims 24 to 33, including means (13) for enabling a transaction associated with the content data (19) to be performed.

35. The storage terminal of any one of claims 24 to 34, including means (13) for decrypting encrypted content data (19) and transmitted the decrypted content data to the user terminal (3,5).